

SPECIFIC CHARACTER.

Violet-black Snake, with the abdomen and sides crimson; the scuta margined with black.

Abdominal Scuta 188. *Anal.* 7. *Subcaudal Scales* 45.

THIS beautiful Snake, which appears to be unprovided with tubular teeth or fangs, and consequently not of a poisonous nature, is about three, and sometimes four feet in length. Its colour on the upper parts is a glossy violet-black; the sides of an elegant deep crimson, which on the abdomen declines into a paler tinge, or more approaching to whitish; while the scuta or broad semi-circular scales which compose this part, are each deeply bordered with black. The alternate scales or divided scuta beneath the tail are of a lead-colour, and the largest series of the crimson side-scales are tipped with black; which gives them an appearance peculiarly elegant. This Snake may be considered as a species hitherto undescribed.